

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A trocar sleeve, comprising
a housing,
a shaft projecting from a distal side of said housing,
a sealing made of an elastic material, said sealing being
provided for sealing an instrument inserted into said trocar sleeve in a gas-tight manner
versus a proximal direction of said sealing,
said sealing having a disk-shaped portion extending transversally to a longitudinal axis of said trocar sleeve,
a central opening being provided in said disk-shaped portion of said sealing, said central opening having a smallest diameter in a first, not yet stretched rest position of said sealing, and a spreading device for stretching said elastic material of said sealing in a manner to enlarge said diameter of said central opening,
said spreading device comprising a sleeve being movable along said longitudinal axis of said trocar sleeve, a ring-shaped facial end of said movable sleeve resting on said disk-shaped portion of said sealing, and
a lock mechanism comprising at least three lock positions wherein said spreading device is not movable, said at least three lock positions comprising a zero position without stretching and spreading said sealing, and a second position of a maximum stretching of said sealing, and at least one intermediate position between said zero position and said second maximum stretching position for intermediate spreading of said sealing.
2. (Original) The trocar sleeve of claim 1, wherein said ring-shaped facial end of said movable sleeve is arranged coaxially to said central opening in said disk-shaped portion of said sealing, said central opening being circle-shaped.
3. (Original) The trocar sleeve of claim 1, wherein said sealing has a pot-shaped

body, said central opening being provided in a bottom of said pot-shaped body, and said movable sleeve being insertable into said pot-like body for stretching said bottom thereby enlarging said diameter of said central opening.

4. (Original) The trocar sleeve of claim 3, wherein said pot-shaped body of said sealing and said movable sleeve are arranged in said housing.
5. (Original) The trocar sleeve of claim 1, wherein said spreading device being fixable in different positions which different positions correspond to differently enlarged diameters of said central opening of said sealing.
6. (Previously presented) The trocar sleeve of claim 1, wherein a guide is provided for guiding a displacing movement of said spreading device, and wherein said lock mechanism is provided for interlocking said spreading device in different displacing positions.
7. (Original) The trocar sleeve of claim 6, wherein said guide comprises a slot-link guide, a slidable member is guided within said slot-link guide.
8. (Original) The trocar sleeve of claim 7, wherein said slot-link guide is configured as a heart curve guiding said spreading device between a zero position without stretching and spreading said sealing and a position of a maximum stretching said sealing and with intermediate spreading positions being between said zero position and said maximum stretching position.
9. (Original) The trocar sleeve of claim 6, wherein said spreading device comprises an actuation member which can be activated from an outer side of said trocar sleeve.
10. (Original) The trocar sleeve of claim 9, wherein said actuation member is config-

ured as a lever being pivotable about an axis extending transversally to said longitudinally extending trocar sleeve axis.

11. (Original) The trocar sleeve of claim 10, wherein said lever is provided with a pin, said pin acts as said movable member moving along said slot-link guide.

12. (Original) The trocar sleeve of claim 11, wherein said pin being forced by a spring.

13. (Previously presented) The trocar sleeve of claim 1, wherein the at least one intermediate position comprises substantially any position between said zero position and said second maximum stretching position.

14. (Previously presented) The trocar sleeve of claim 1, wherein the at least one intermediate position comprises a plurality of intermediate positions.

15. (Currently amended) A trocar sleeve, comprising
a housing,
a shaft projecting from a distal side of said housing,
a sealing made of an elastic material, said sealing being
provided for sealing an instrument inserted into said trocar sleeve in a gas-tight manner versus a proximal direction of said sealing,
said sealing having a disk-shaped portion extending transversally to a longitudinally axis of said trocar sleeve,
a central opening being provided in said disk-shaped portion of said sealing, said central opening having a smallest diameter in a first, not yet stretched rest position of said sealing, and a spreading device for stretching said elastic material of said sealing in a manner to enlarge said diameter of said central opening,

said spreading device comprising a sleeve being movable along said longitudinal axis of said trocar sleeve, a ring-shaped facial end of said movable sleeve resting on said disk-shaped portion of said sealing, wherein a guide is provided for guiding displacement of said spreading device between a zero position without stretching and spreading said sealing, a position of a maximum stretching of said sealing, and intermediate spreading positions of said sealing ~~being~~ between said zero position and said maximum stretching position, and wherein a lock is provided for interlocking said spreading device in said different positions.

16. (Previously presented) A trocar sleeve, comprising
a housing,
a shaft projecting from a distal side of said housing,
a sealing made of an elastic material, said sealing being
provided for sealing an instrument inserted into said trocar sleeve in a gas-tight manner versus a proximal direction of said sealing,

said sealing having a disk-shaped portion extending transversally to a longitudinally axis of said trocar sleeve,

a central opening being provided in said disk-shaped portion of said sealing, said central opening having a smallest diameter in a first, not yet stretched rest position of said sealing, and a spreading device for stretching said elastic material of said sealing in a manner to enlarge said diameter of said central opening,

said spreading device comprising a sleeve being movable along said longitudinal axis of said trocar sleeve, a ring-shaped facial end of said movable sleeve resting on said disk-shaped portion of said sealing,

a lock mechanism is provided for interlocking said spreading device in different displacing positions, and

a guide is provided for guiding a displacing movement of said spreading device said guide comprising a slot-link guide and a slidable member guided within said slot-link guide, wherein said slot-link guide is configured as a heart curve guiding said

spreading device between a zero position without stretching and spreading said sealing and a position of a maximum stretching said sealing and with intermediate spreading positions being between said zero position and said maximum stretching position.